



TRIBUNE PHOTO/ROBIN LOZNAK

Christy Daniels' bronze sculpture "The Crossing" at the Western Heritage Artists Show at the Holiday Inn won Best of Show Wednesday.

## Western Heritage Artists award Frenchtown woman Best of Show

By KRISTEN CATES  
Tribune Staff Writer

Christy Daniels, an artist from Frenchtown, took home the best in show award from the Western Heritage Artists Show Wednesday at the Holiday Inn.

"I'm stunned," she said.

She won for her 8-foot-long bronze sculpture, "The Crossing," which depicts a cowboy taking a herd of horses across a river.

"I actually started it about 15 years ago," she said. "It kind of started as a couple of horses crossing a creek."



Daniels

Daniels said her inspiration came from her younger years when she used to take her horse swimming, and the cowboy is modeled after her uncle, who recently died.

After participating in last year's show she went and got to work, finishing the sculpture in October, she said.

Daniels also received an honorable mention Wednesday in the sculptures category for her piece.

Kay Chick, coordinator of the 26th annual show, said whoever wins best in show "stands out" from the rest of the other 65 artists — even if they received an honorable mention in a specific category.

"It's what draws people in," she said.

Chick said artists are set up in rooms on the first three floors of the hotel.

"Everything we do is all free to the public," she said. "We just have wonderful artists who do a large number of different media."

The Western Heritage Art Show continues at the Holiday Inn, 400 10th Ave. S., from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. today, Friday and Saturday. The show runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.



### Award winners

**Best in Show:** Christy Daniels, Frenchtown, "The Crossing"

**Photography:** John Warner, Sun River, "Two Horse Heads"

**Photography honorable mention:** Minnie Hawthorne, Great Falls, "Moulton Barn in the Tetons"

**Drawn media:** Sandra Haynes; Heppner, Ore., "Stripes"

**Drawn media honorable mention:** Berna Lay Ost; Powell, Wyo., "Oh, Utah!"

**Oil:** Doug Miller, Wenatchee, Wash., "Nason Creek"

**Oil honorable mention:** Lyn Graves, Great Falls, "Teardrop Iris"

**Acrylic:** Albert Joransen; Brooklyn Park, Minn., "Contentment"

**Acrylic honorable mention:** Jody Menge, Hilger, "Snarl"

**Water media:** Diane Anderson, Power, "Alpine Fog"

**Water media honorable mention:** Truong Buu Giam, Westminster, Calif., "Morning Dew"

**Sculpture:** Bill Ernst, Lyle, Wash., "Raven at the Head of Nass"

**Sculpture honorable mention:** Christy Daniels, Frenchtown, "The Crossing"

**Carving:** Ken Acton, Colstrip, "Swattin Flies"

**Carving honorable mention:** Sally Johnson, Big Fork, "Screech Owl with Carved Book"